



Decision Memo
Davis Aqueduct Geotechnical Testing
Ogden Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Davis County, Utah
November 2019

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document details my decision regarding the proposal from the Bureau of Reclamation to perform geotechnical testing at the Weber Basin Job Corp Center.

Project number in the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System database: 57183

General Location: Weber Basin Job Corp Center, Ogden, Utah

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION

The Bureau of Reclamation has completed a categorical exclusion to approve geotechnical testing in advance of a supplemental pipeline for the Davis Aqueduct. Since the work being proposed is located on National Forest System lands at the Weber Basin Job Corp Center, a review and decision is also required by the Forest Service.

3.0 DECISION AND RATIONALE

My decision is to authorize the proposed action as described in the BOR categorical exclusion document and section 2, above.

Based on environmental analysis and input from an interdisciplinary team of Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest resource specialists, I have determined that this action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. In particular, this action falls under **36 CFR 220.6(e)(8) - Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.**

Resource conditions are considered when determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action exist that warrant further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. As per Chapter 30, Section 31.2 of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, the mere presences of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. I have concluded that there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative environmental effect.

4.0 SCOPING

The project was entered into the project into the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System database and was reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

5.0 FOREST PLAN AND LEGAL CONSISTENCY

I find that the proposed action is fully consistent with the 2003 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, as well as in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Specifically; the National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; Clean Water Act; Congressional designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas; Inventoried Roadless Areas; Research Natural Areas; Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, or historical properties or areas; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898).

6.0 OBJECTION OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

My decision is not subject to administrative appeal or objection, as outlined in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and the Agricultural Act of 2014. This decision may be implemented immediately.

7.0 CONTACT PERSON

For additional information about the project, contact Donica Bigelow at 801-476-5930 or donica.bigelow@usda.gov.



Sean Harwood
District Ranger
Ogden Ranger District

11-15-2019
Date

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